

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

INTRODUCED BY D. WANZENRIED, LEWIS, BOOKOUT-REINICKE, DELL, GROSFIELD, KEANE,  
LINDEEN, SCHRUMPF

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA EXPRESSING THE LEGISLATURE'S SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY PROGRAM AND FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT PROPOSAL TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.

WHEREAS, improved commercial motor vehicle and driver safety serves the best interests of the public, the commercial motor carrier industry, and the state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, the commercial motor carrier industry agrees that full compliance with state and federal commercial vehicle and driver safety laws and regulations is a critical industry responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the commercial motor carrier industry is experiencing increased fuel costs, insurance costs, driver hiring and training costs, and other operating costs; and

WHEREAS, commercial motor vehicle crashes significantly impact national health care costs, insurance costs, and the lives of victims and their families; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation is committed to achieving a 50% reduction in fatalities resulting from commercial motor vehicle crashes; and

WHEREAS, the government's ability to substantially improve commercial motor vehicle safety through enforcement may have already reached peak effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, a commercial motor carrier safety program combining education with financial incentives may represent the most effective remaining opportunity to significantly improve commercial motor vehicle and driver safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislature support development of:

(1) a Motor Carrier Safety Program for the New Millennium that includes focused safety education and financial incentives for commercial motor carriers who implement a program that results in safer

1 vehicles and drivers; and

2 (2) a grant proposal requesting funding from the United States Department of Transportation to  
3 study and evaluate the safety program envisioned and described in this resolution.

4 - END -